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May 7, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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MOTION TO DIRECT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE TO WORK WITH THE SACRAMENTO ADVOCATES TO PURSUE OR SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE RELINQUISHMENT OF A PORTION OF STATE HIGHWAY 19 - ROSEMEAD BOULEVARD TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY (ITEM NO. 5, AGENDA OF MAY 12, 2015)

Item No. 5 on the May 12, 2015 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Solis to direct the Chief Executive Office to work with the Sacramento advocates to pursue or support legislation which would authorize the relinquishment of the 2.6-mile segment of State Highway 19, Rosemead Boulevard between the southern boundary of the City of South El Monte (Rush St.) to the northern boundary of the City of Pico Rivera (Gallatin Rd.), to the County.

Background

The Legislature has provided statutory authorization to California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish a number of State highway segments to local jurisdictions under specified conditions. Relinquishment provides the recipient agency with greater control over local transportation projects and relieves the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) of any further responsibility to improve, maintain, or repair infrastructure related to the relinquished segment of the State highway. Relinquishment transactions are generally preceded by a negotiation of terms and conditions between the local jurisdiction and Caltrans. Once an agreement has been established, CTC typically approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via a resolution.

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SB 461 (Hernandez)

SB 461 (Hernandez), which as amended on April 6, 2015, would authorize the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish a specified segment of State Highway Route 164 to the County of Los Angeles. The segment runs approximately 2.6-miles from the southern boundary of the City of South El Monte (Rush St.) and the northern boundary of the City of Pico Rivera (Gallatin Rd.).

According to Caltrans, State Route 164 is the official Legislative Route Number for the once planned but unconstructed "Rio Hondo Freeway" that parallels Rosemead Boulevard. However, Rosemead Boulevard, which transitions to Lakewood Boulevard, is signed as State Route 19 to help motorists navigate from the San Gabriel Valley to Long Beach. Therefore, the portion of the road referenced in SB 461 as State Route 164 and Supervisor Solis' motion as State Route 19 are the same.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) reports the State's relinquishment of this portion of Rosemead Boulevard would allow the County to assume direct control of the roadway and better serve the local community. Specifically, it would allow the County to construct a "*Complete Streets*" corridor project to accommodate safe and convenient travel for all users of the road and emphasize safer conditions for vulnerable users such as seniors, people with limited or devise-assisted mobility, youth, pedestrians, and cyclists. DPW also indicates that the proposed project would complement the surrounding Whittier Narrows Recreation Area – the largest park in the region – by enhancing recreation opportunities and access to the park. The Department reports that the County's acceptance of the relinquishment is contingent upon the terms and conditions of a future agreement between the State and County.

There is no support for or opposition to SB 461 at this time.

SB 461 passed the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee by a vote of 10 to 0 on April 21, 2015. The measure is currently on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File and will be considered later this month.

Conclusion

This office and the Department of Public Works recommend support for SB 461.

Approval of this motion is consistent with existing Board-approved policy to support proposals that increase the prevalence and safety of sidewalks, walking trails, bike paths, and parks; promote safe walking and biking routes to schools and commercial districts; and promote complete streets, which make streets safe and accessible for all users including automobiles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

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Support is also consistent with the Board's approval of a motion on April 6, 2004 to support SB 1375 of 2004 which relinquished, to the County, a portion of Rosemead Boulevard between the Foothill Freeway (I-210) and the San Bernardino Freeway (I-10), to allow the County to construct improvements to the infrastructure and appearance of Rosemead Boulevard.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
VE:AO:lm

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel